

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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**Secretary Clinton Says U.S.-China Dialogue Is Building Mutual Trust**

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the third round of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue has resulted in broader understanding between U.S. and Chinese officials and their interaction is advancing trust between the world's two largest economic powers.

Speaking to reporters in Washington May 10 after the conclusion of the two-day discussions, Clinton said differences remain between China and the United States on sensitive issues, including China's human rights practices, but the willingness of both sides to candidly discuss them has built trust between the two countries.

"We do not expect to find agreement on every issue. We know that we approach some of the sensitive matters from a different perspective than our Chinese counterparts, but I do think it is fair to say ... we have a deeper understanding of the viewpoint of the other," she said.

"I think we have had such an open dialogue on every issue that we have built trust because we're not keeping any issue under the table or off the agenda. We are talking about the hard issues and we're developing these habits of cooperation across our government," Clinton said.

The secretary said that mutual understanding and mutual trust between the United States and China have been enhanced since the dialogues began in 2009, and said that given the two countries' differences in history, culture, development models and political systems, "it is important that we continue intensive consultations."

President Obama met with Vice Premier Wang Qishan and State Councilor Dai Bingguo at the White House May 9, where he raised U.S. concerns over human rights in China and encouraged China to "implement policies that support sustained and balanced global growth as well as a more balanced bilateral economic relationship," according to a May 9 White House press release.

The White House discussions also focused on ways to advance shared U.S. and Chinese nonproliferation objectives, "including working together to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program, to meet its international commitments and to avoid destabilizing behavior," the White House said.

The U.S. and Chinese delegations to the third round of the dialogue included senior military leaders, and a senior Obama administration official said he hoped that their participation will contribute to building long-term strategic trust between the two countries.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said in a May 9 teleconference that many of the most sensitive security issues between the United States and China are "crosscutting in nature" across the civilian and military components of the two governments.

"By tackling some of those sensitive issues together, we hope we can break down misunderstandings and misperceptions that could potentially lead to some sort of miscalculation," the official said.

Both countries recognize that misunderstandings and misperceptions "many times most undermine that strategic trust," the official said, and he said he was encouraged by the discussions that the United States and China approach the challenge "in similar ways."

**Osama bin Laden's Death Pivotal in Shift to Peace, Leaders Say**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — Amid swift reaction to the death of terrorist leader and mass murderer Osama bin Laden, world leaders generally believe the event may be pivotal in shifting the focus away from a decade characterized by terrorism and extremism to one of building democratic societies in the Middle East and across the globe.

Lebanon's outgoing premier, Saad Hariri, may have summed up best the sentiments of those in the region where the al-Qaida terrorist group formed and fomented its brand of extremism. "The history of our nationalism and Islam will never forgive that man who was a black mark for two decades, filling the minds of youngsters with ideas about terrorism, murder and destruction," Hariri said in published news reports.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton noted on May 2, the day after a team of U.S. Navy special operations commandos attacked and killed bin Laden in a walled hideout, that the al-Qaida leader's reign of terror and violence were not just attacks on Americans in the United States 10 years ago: "These were attacks against the whole world."

"In London and Madrid, Bali, Istanbul and many other places, innocent people — most of them Muslims — were targeted in markets and mosques, in subway stations and on airplanes, each attack motivated by a violent ideology

that holds no value for human life or regard for human dignity,” Clinton said in Washington. “I know that nothing can make up for the loss of the victims or fill the voids they left, but I hope their families can now find some comfort in the fact that justice has been served.”

Palestinian Authority spokesman Ghassan Khatib said that the end for bin Laden is good for the cause of worldwide peace, but overcoming his discourse and methods — all of them violent — will be what counts over the long term. And Malaysian Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein expressed the hope that the death of the al-Qaida leader would lead the world “to universal peace and harmony.”

The Turkish Milliyet judged in its editorial pages that bin Laden was “already a representative of a ‘defeated’ ideology” even before he was killed. “Muslims have already made their choice” in the Arab Spring uprisings, and they have chosen to embrace democracy, the newspaper said.

The Gulf News in the United Arab Emirates said that while bin Laden claimed to be Muslim and speak for the Muslim world, what he offered his followers was nothing other than hatred and anger. The challenge now, the newspaper said, is to root out these dangerous terrorists and expose them for the sham that they are.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague told reporters that bin Laden was responsible for some of the worst terrorist atrocities the world has seen, which have cost thousands of lives. Hague added that it “is a time to remember all those murdered by Osama bin Laden, and all those who lost loved ones. It is also a time too, to thank all those who work round the clock to keep us safe from terrorism.”

The president of the European Union Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, said in the aftermath of bin Laden’s death that “we woke up in a safer world. Even if the fight of the international community against terrorists is not over, an important step in the fight against al-Qaida has been made.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that “the forces of peace were able to report a success, but international terrorism has not been yet defeated. What has become clear today is that there will be further successes in the fight against terror, even if they take a long time to achieve, and the death of bin Laden is a huge success in this endeavor.”

## U.S. Makes Progress Toward World Without Nuclear Weapons

By MacKenzie C. Babb  
Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration has dedicated “unprecedented financial, political and technical resources to prevent proliferation” and is making progress in moving toward a world without nuclear weapons, says Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ellen Tauscher.

“We have achieved the entry into force of the New START agreement, adopted a nuclear posture review that promotes nonproliferation and reduces the role of nuclear weapons in our national security policy, and we helped to achieve a consensus action plan at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review,” Tauscher said May 10 at the Arms Control Association’s annual meeting in Washington.

Other administration efforts include convening the successful 2010 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, helping to secure and relocate vulnerable nuclear materials, and increasing effective multilateral sanctions against Iran and North Korea for illegal nuclear activity, Tauscher added.

Tauscher praised in particular the February entry into force of the New START treaty, a U.S.-Russia agreement that will reduce each nation’s nuclear arsenals to their lowest levels in more than a half century.

Tom Collina, research director at the Arms Control Association, said the treaty has worldwide benefits, including building a “global movement to stop other nations from getting nuclear weapons” and thus decrease the international threat of nuclear terrorism.

To further eliminate that threat, Tauscher said, the Obama administration is preparing for the next steps in nuclear arms reduction, including “reductions in strategic, nonstrategic and nondeployed weapons.”

The New START treaty “opened the door” for passage of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which Tauscher said the United States has taken a leading role to support. She said the international treaty, which prohibits nuclear explosions in all environments for military or civilian purposes, will enhance U.S. security.

The United States has signed the treaty, but the U.S. Senate has not yet ratified it. Tauscher said the Obama administration is preparing to engage the Senate and the American public in an educational campaign expected to lead to ratification. She said the United States no longer needs to conduct nuclear explosive tests.

The United States has observed a moratorium on nuclear testing since 1992, and U.S. officials say the country has no plans to resume. Tauscher added that for 15 years the secretaries of defense and energy and directors of nuclear weapons laboratories have certified the U.S. arsenal is "safe, secure and effective."

"Each year, we have affirmed that we do not need to conduct explosive nuclear tests," Tauscher said.

She said the treaty, if entered into force, would "obligate other states not to test and provide disincentives for states" that do continue to test.

The global community has a "robust verification regime" to catch those who would try to cheat the treaty, and would be prepared to levy "significant costs" to those countries, including international sanctions, she said.

Looking ahead, Tauscher said ratifying the treaty could help enhance international cooperation, strengthen U.S. leverage with the international community in pressuring defiant regimes that engage in illegal nuclear activity, and allow for greater U.S. credibility when encouraging other states to pursue nonproliferation objectives.

### **U.S. Takes High-Level Interest in Arctic Meeting**

By Charlene Porter  
Staff Writer

Washington — Two U.S. Cabinet secretaries head to Nuuk, Greenland, for a meeting of the Arctic Council May 12, devoting a "historic" level of executive branch attention, according to one U.S. official, to this meeting of nations with territorial claims to the top of the world.

The official, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Balton, briefed Washington reporters May 9 on the meeting, which will approve an agreement among eight nations for cooperation in search-and-rescue operations conducted in the Arctic. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will attend the meeting.

The agreement calls for sharing resources in the event of a need for search and rescue, Balton said. "Within each area, one nation will have the lead responsibility; all others through the agreement are committed to help to the extent they can." The agreement also calls for greater readiness training for search and rescue, improving communications and joint training exercises.

The eight-nation council includes representatives from Canada, Denmark (including Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the United States.

The council's Nuuk agenda also includes plans to begin development of an agreement to jointly respond to an oil spill in the Arctic. Scientific surveys calculate that significant oil resources are untapped there. The United States and Norway are actively drilling today; Greenland and Russia both are proceeding with plans to drill, and Canada stopped drilling operations when yields did not justify the significant expense and risks of the operations.

Drilling is difficult in the harsh environment, and it is generally recognized that cleaning up a spill, from drilling or shipping, would be extremely difficult.

"Oil and gas development is already occurring in parts of the Arctic," Balton said, suggesting that member states ultimately will agree to pool resources to cope with a spill. "We do need to be responsible and prepared for the possibility of spills."

Balton said human activities in the region are undoubtedly on the increase and the council will also begin a process to develop an "ecosystem management basis" for controlling those activities.

Climate change is a force already having major impacts in the Arctic. "The sea ice is receding, the coasts are eroding, land glaciers in the Greenland ice sheet are melting, the permafrost is thawing," Balton said. "All of this is creating very significant challenges for the people who live in the Arctic."

Balton said climate change may also create opportunities in the Arctic for easier access to oil resources, more open shipping channels and expanded fishing opportunities.

New scientific findings demonstrate some key ways climate change is adversely affecting the environment. A working group responsible for providing expert information to the eight governments, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, reported earlier this month that the increase in Arctic temperature averages is twice as high as in the rest of the world. The effects of melting Arctic snow and sea ice are interacting with other climate forces to accelerate warming, and sea ice, mountain glaciers and ice caps are diminishing faster than they did prior to 2000.

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